

# IOWA BIRD LIFE



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The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

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# IOWA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

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JOHN FLECKENSTEIN  
ICC - Wallace State Office Building  
DES MOINES, IOWA

Since the early 1800's, at least 13 species of birds have disappeared from Iowa as breeders. Other species may have reached dangerously low levels. In an effort to document and forestall this trend, the Iowa Natural Areas Inventory was established in 1981. It was established by the Iowa Conservation Commission and The Nature Conservancy and administered jointly until 1983 when it was transferred entirely to the Conservation Commission. Its goal is to perform a systematic inventory of ecological resources in the state of Iowa. The inventory also provides information for protection and management of these resources. Work was begun by selecting for study the rarest and most endangered plant and animal species and natural communities.

The species and communities included on this list were selected by the Inventory staff with extensive input from State Ecologist Dean Roosa and other researchers working in Iowa. About 460 species of plants and animals, and natural communities whose continued existence is threatened were selected for the initial list. These were ranked to the degree of threat to each. The 34 listed species of birds are shown with the ranks in Table 1.

Following the initial ranking, staff scientists began collecting information on locations of the listed elements. Data came from our own field surveys and a large number of secondary sources. We do as much field work as possible. However, we are limited in time, money, and areas of expertise. Therefore, we depend heavily on secondary sources. We have surveyed most of the museum collections in the state. We spend many hours reading for references to Iowa species. University faculty and students and Conservation Commission and county conservation board staff provide many records. We collect records from knowledgeable volunteers such as members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the Herpetological Society. We participate in field projects such as the Breeding Bird Survey and the Breeding Bird Atlas. And we are occasionally able to hire someone for a field project.

We have worked systematically with university personnel and are beginning to establish a thorough network of contacts with Commission and conservation board staff. We are now beginning a systematic program to reach organizations such as the IOU.

The type of data useful to the Inventory is somewhat limited. Rather than collecting all sightings of a species, we collect only those which appear to affect its continued survival. For example, we do not collect records of bird species in migration. A piece of habitat used during migration is not, for the most part, vital to the continued survival of a species. For the Bald Eagle and Long-eared Owl, we also collect records of winter concentrations. If you have records of any of the listed species, please let us know.

We have recently defined several projects which go beyond simple requests for data on any and all listed species. These projects will be described in a future issue of the IOU Newsletter. We welcome information on any of the listed species but will especially need help with these projects.

Records are gathered in the Des Moines office, transcribed onto standard forms, and entered into a data base which includes manual and computer files. The data base is designed as a central repository for information on rare species and natural communities. We use it to comment on environmental reviews. We recommend areas for purchase by conservation organizations. We make



management suggestions for areas already under protection. In addition to guiding our own research, we hope the program will be used by university staff and others to plan research projects. Finally, we periodically update the ranking system, changing ranks of elements which appear to be more or less abundant than formerly thought. The Inventory is a powerful tool for guiding protection and management of rare species and natural communities.

In addition to protection from development, some species and communities require protection from large numbers of viewers. Data requests must be in the best interests of the species or community. They must include a description of the project and demonstrate a need for the data. We also ask assurance that precise locations will not be released indiscriminately. Our goal is the protection of resources. In some cases, this requires limits on the release of information.

Staff of the Inventory consists of Daryl Howell, zoologist; Mark Leoschke, botanist; John Pearson, community ecologist; and myself, data manager. Both Daryl and I have worked with birds and look forward to meeting and working with members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Watch the Newsletter for information on proposed projects and do not hesitate to call us at 515-281-7614 if you want to learn more about the program.

TABLE 1  
BIRD SPECIES OF INTEREST TO THE IOWA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

Species	Rank	Species	Rank
Eared Grebe	S1	Forster's Tern	S3
Double-crested Cormorant	S2	Least Tern	S1
American Bittern	S2	C. Barn Owl	S1
Great Blue Heron	S3	Burrowing Owl	S2
Great Egret	S2	Long-eared Owl	S2
Black-crowned Night Heron	S3	Short-eared Owl	S2
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	S2	Pileated Woodpecker	SU
Bald Eagle	S1	Least Flycatcher	S3
Northern Harrier	S1	Say's Pheobe	S2
Cooper's Hawk	S1	Bewick's Wren	S3
Red-shouldered Hawk	S1	Blue-winged Warbler	S4
Broad-winged Hawk	S3	Northern Parula Warbler	S3
Swainson's Hawk	S3	Chestnut-sided Warbler	S3
King Rail	S1	Yellow-throated Warbler	S3
Piping Plover	S1	Worm-eating Warbler	S1
Upland Sandpiper	S4	Hooded Warbler	S3
Common Snipe	S3	Henslow's Sparrow	S1

\*Ranks are based largely on the number of locations at which a species breeds:

S1 - 1-5 locations

S2 - 6-20 locations

S3 - More than 20 locations but species at risk

S4 - Species may be secure

SU - Status unknown, possibly at risk

Other factors such as the number of individuals at a site, the number of protected sites, and general threat to the species are also taken into account.

FRANCIS L. MOORE  
336 Fairfield St  
Waterloo, IA 50703

The annual Fall meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held in the Rathbun Lake area near Centerville, Iowa with the majority of the activities taking place at the Iowa Conservation Commission Fish Hatchery below the Northeast end of the dam. The convention was held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 4, 5 and 6, 1985 and was hosted by members of the Rathbun Area Bird Club. This group had done their homework and had everything organized so that events flowed together exceptionally well and it looked as though everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The weekend began with a social gathering at a rustic cabin just North of Centerville which is owned and operated by the Iowa Southern Utilities. The evening lasted from 7 pm until 9:30 pm. It was a very pleasant way of unwinding after an exasperating day at work and for some of us a long drive in heavy winds to get to the area. The conversations were great and good way to talk "birding" with old and new friends.

Field trips began in the darkness of Saturday morning at 6:30 am from the parking lot of the I.C.C. Fish Hatchery. Several local areas were "hit" to get everyone ready for the workshops and business meeting later that day. The field trips did not turn up anything exceptional, most likely because of the strong winds that blew throughout the day. They were a great way to get the day started.

The afternoon started with a welcome from Rick Ahee of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce and was followed by a short slide show of the natural areas around Centerville and Lake Rathbun narrated by Bill Heusinkveld. Birding workshops started soon after with Jim Dilnsmore giving two back-to-back 45 minute workshops on "The Basics of Raptor Identification." Running concurrent with these were two other workshops: one on "Ferruginous Hawk Identification" by Barb Wilson and a second on "Computer and Records" by Tom Kent. All three were excellent and gave everyone present a good chance to get some pointers from these knowledgeable I.O.U. members.

The business meeting began following a short break. The meeting was called to order by President Carl Bendorf at 3:34 pm. Tom Kent made a motion that the minutes of the May 1985 meeting be approved as published in Vol. 55, No. 2 of *Iowa Bird Life*. The motion was seconded by Carol Thompson. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Tom then gave a short report on the progress of the Records Committee to the membership.

President Bendorf then asked for a report from the Chairman of the Publications Committee, Jim Dinsmore. Jim reported that the next issue of *Iowa Bird Life* would be mailed in about two weeks. He also said that the first issue of the I.O.U. newsletter would be out some time in December 1985. He then asked for proposals for editorship of I.B.L. from the membership present, per our new constitution, and said that the proposals had to be sent to the Publications Committee by November 15, 1985. He requested suggestions on ideas for either one-time or regular on-going articles for I.B.L. and the newsletter.

President Bendorf reported that, according to the I.O.U. constitution, the Board of Directors must annually propose the following years dues structure, which is to be set by a vote of the membership prior to the start of the new year starting January 1. He then read the list of the classes of membership and the suggested rates for those classes as follows:



Regular Membership .....	\$12.00 per year
Regular Plus Family Membership .....	\$12.00
for the first regular member plus \$4.00 for the second member plus \$2.00 for each additional member.	
Contributing Member .....	Any amount over the regular member rate per year.
The amount over the \$12.00 regular member price is a tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.	
Life Membership .....	A single lump sum payment of \$250.00
or four equal payments of \$62.50 to be made at least annually, or can be paid off sooner if desired.	
Honorary Membership .....	\$ 0.00, only by 2/3 vote
of the membership at the Spring meeting.	

Institutional Membership ..... \$15.00 per year.

Francis Moore made a motion that the membership dues structure, as proposed by the Board of Directors, be approved as read and listed by President Bendorf. Pete Petersen seconded the motion. After short discussion the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

President Bendorf reported that the Articles of Incorporation of the I.O.U. were currently being reviewed and brought up to date by Harold White to compliment our new Constitution. The changes will be brought up for review by the membership at the Spring 1986 meeting as per the current Articles of Incorporation.

Jim Sinclair gave a report on the Iowa Bird-A-Thon project; what it is, what we want to accomplish and what we are doing with it at present. He said there would be an insert about the Bird-A-Thon in the December issue of the Newsletter and the March issue of the I.B.L. President Bendorf noted why he and the Board thought that this project should be undertaken to bring funds into the I.O.U. He read a proposal from the Board of Directors that the funds collected from the Bird-A-Thon be split, with 50% to go directly to the I.O.U. and 50% to the local club or group co-sponsoring the event. They are given the option to either retain their portion of the proceeds or to give them to a worthwhile organization of their choice. Jim Dinsmore made a motion that the funds from an I.O.U. Bird-A-Thon be split as proposed by the Board of Directors and be approved as read by President Bendorf. Ray Cummins seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

President Bendorf reported that he had contacted Ed Crocker about the intent and content of the Woodward Brown Scholarship Fund. Ed's correspondence noted that the fund started in 1976 with two \$200.00 contributions with the fund to be loaned or granted to students studying ornithology in Iowa. Treasurer Hank Zaletel said that the fund now contains approximately \$750.00. Tom Kent made a motion that the Board use the Scholarship Fund in an appropriate manner and then have the I.O.U. get out of the scholarship business. Ray Cummins seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with one vote against passage.

Tom Kent asked how the Breeding Bird Atlas was coming along. Darwin Koenig, as the I.O.U. liason on the project, gave his view of what was happening with the project. Discussion followed as to where the project was headed. President Bendorf asked Darwin to carry the concerns of the I.O.U. to the I.C.C.

President Bendorf brought forth a proposal from Rick Hollis for the establishment of Projects Committee. Mary Lou Petersen advised, as a recommendation from the membership, that the President set up a Projects Committee for the duration of his term of office. Ray Cummins made a motion that the I.O.U. accept Mary Lou's proposal. Ross Silcock seconded the motion. The motion passed on a show of hands; 20 votes for the motion and 6 votes against it.

President Bendorf reported that Dorothy Brunner, a former President of the I.O.U. from Nora Springs had passed away on October 4, 1985.

President Bendorf read a proposal from Rick Hollis about a classroom unit on "Iowa Birds" for elementary aged, 4th and 5th grades, school children, and noted that it might be a good project for funds from the Bird-A-Thon. He then asked for volunteers for the yet unfilled positions on the Membership, Library and Projects Committees.

Ross Silcock, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, asked for suggestions and/or volunteers for four positions that will need to be voted on for the Board of Directors at the Spring meeting, those positions being Secretary, Treasurer and two Director-at-Large. Anyone interested should get in touch with Ross as soon as possible.

Hank Zaletel made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Carol Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. The business meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

The evening banquet was held at the J & K Barn a short distance south of the I.C.C. Fish Hatchery. It was a very good buffet style meal with plenty for all. Don Johnson from Ottumwa gave a wonderful slide tour of his 20 week trip of Australia. It was really interesting and informative and made you want to do the same thing. Following his show there was short identification quiz with 20 slides of easy and hard to identify species.

Field trips departed the next morning at 6:30 am from the I.C.C. Fish Hatchery parking lot to search the surrounding countryside for as many bird species as could be found. The winds had died down from the day before but this did not seem to help anyone find any rare species; in fact there seemed to be fewer species than when the wind was blowing the day before. Everyone had a good morning in the field and had a good time birding the area. When the participants began arriving back at the Fish Hatchery they were treated to a very good buffet luncheon. When everyone was assembled, the members of the I.O.U. gave a round of applause as thanks to the Rathbun Area Bird Club for their extra work in organizing a great Fall meeting.

After everyone was well fed we all settled down to the compilation of the bird list from the morning field trips. The compilation was led by Pete Petersen, with 116 species being seen on Sunday and an additional 19 species seen on Saturday only. The more interesting species seen were: Peregrine Falcon on Saturday, Black-bellied Plover on Saturday, Northern Saw-whet Owl on Saturday, Northern Mockingbird on Saturday, between 20 and 30 LeConte's Sparrows in one group, and it was great to see so many Eastern Bluebirds everywhere we went. If anyone wants a list of the birds as recorded send your request to the Secretary of the I.O.U., a copy will be forwarded to you.

#### —Registered Attendance—

AMES: Jim and Steve Dinsmore, Edwin and Marjory Kline, Paul Martsching, Erik Munson

BOONEVILLE: Eloise and Eugene Armstrong

CEDAR RAPIDS: Dale and Helen Fye, Roberta Oppedahl

CENTERVILLE: Dot Cornett, Craig and Enid Coulter, Bill and Doris Cummings, Madeline and Ray Cummins, Deborah and Paul Egeland, Jim Ellis, Bill and Marj Heusinkveld, Mark Hoffman, Becky and Tom Johnson, Kathryn and Robert Malmberg, Mary Montgomery, Mary and Virginia Padovan

CLINTON: Jackie Gardner

COLO: Hank Zaletel

DAVENPORT: Ann and Bill Barker, Mary Lou and Peter Petersen

DES MOINES: John Fleckenstein



ELDORA: Nancy Slife

GILMAN: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Graham

HASTINGS: Barbara Wilson

INDIANOLA: Arlene Sweet

IOWA CITY: Carl Bendorf, Thomas Kent, Carol Thompson

KEOKUK: John and Robert Cecil

LISCOMB: Beth and Mark Proescholdt

MARSHALLTOWN: Jim and Pauline Mairs

MONTEZUMA: Darwin Koenig

MORAVIA: Joe and Mary Murphy

OTTUMWA: Charles and Darleen Ayres, Karen Heinjie, Don Johnson, Dennis and Sandy Schwartz, Cedric and Reggie Ward

PERRY: Becky, Betsy and Robert Myers

PLEASANTVILLE: Jim Sinclair

POCAHONTAS: Betty and Wallace Jardine

SEYMOUR: Cathrine Evans, Earlene and Sonny Gold, Alan and Norma Griffith, Maxine Morrow, Charlotte and Dick Scott

TABOR: Ross Silcock

WATERLOO: Francis and Peggy Moore

WELLMAN: Gene and Ruth Eash, Barbara and Eury Henderson

CITY NOT RECORDED: Gayle Wallace

## CHANGING HABITAT

IONE GETCHER

HAMBURG, IA.

It is not everyone who has a wildlife zoo around as we do. When we moved to the top of the bluff it was covered with wild prairie grass and yucca, except where it had been scalped for a home. To the east of us a bowl-like depression was filled with an orchard of apple, peach and pear trees. The rim was fringed with cottonwoods, mulberry and elm trees mainly; brush of various kinds, sumac, hemp; tangles of bittersweet and wild grape vines. This bowl tilted easterly beyond which was another 'bowl' with a small horse corral on the north. Most of this area was filled with willows.

Wildlife was plentiful and varied: badgers, 'possums, raccons, skunks and, of course, lots of cottontails and fox squirrels. Although I saw none, I am sure there were lots of white-footed mice. The many bats flying at dusk appeared to be the little brown species. A Great Horned Owl nested in an old cottonwood on the south line of our land. Common Screech Owls made themselves known from time to time, although they didn't seem to nest nearby.

After moving to the bluff we were awakened every morning by the whistles and calls of the Yellow-breasted Chat. Orchard Orioles sang and we had one pair of Northern (Baltimore) Orioles, several Mourning Doves, both the Yellow- and the Black-billed Cuckoos, pair of House Wrens, Brown Thrashers, Gray Catbird, more than one pair of Indigo Buntings, Am. Robins, Blue Jays and N. Cardinals. Eastern Bluebirds visited the orchard but never nested there. A pair of Rufous-sided Towhees scratched on the dry 'hillside'. I watched the aerial swinging of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and saw its nest for the next two years. I do not remember any warblers nesting in the orchard.

However, in the spring migration the trees were full of warblers and vireos. In 1948 there was a tremendous migration of Wilson's Warblers, never repeated thereafter in such numbers. By looking carefully in the mornings on both east and



west slopes of the bluff one could see all representatives of the thrush family. But the only one singing was the Wood Thrush. I believe it sang only when it nested here.

A few Brown-headed Cowbirds hung around the corral. The willows hosted Black-capped Chickadees, Am. Goldfinches, both kinglets (in migration), and Downy Woodpeckers. A pair of empidonax flycatchers nested there. Always Northern Harriers could be seen flying low over the Missouri bottom west of us. Am. Crows congregated in wooded area a few miles north. Early in the morning they would fly to the Missouri River in straggling lines and return at night to the roosting places. To our west #6 Ditch was full of frogs; Am. Bitterns 'pumping'; Great Blue Herons fishing; and Red-winged Blackbirds nesting on the banks. As I neglected watching the winter scene in those early days, I do not know what we had at that time.

Two years of nesting near humans was all the chats could stand. One year we had a pair of N. Mockingbirds nesting on the edge of our land. The Great Horned Owls stayed longer. Finally they, too, left the nesting area, but would return from time to time to sit on their favorite roost, a utility pole, and call to each other. Another home was built nearby. Apparently that was a signal for the Orchard Orioles to leave. The gap was filled with more Northern Orioles. Now we heard the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and more Rufous-sided Towhees. The hummingbird no longer nested. However, they come back from time to time to our trumpet vines and columbines when I had those flowers. The Lark Sparrow, who used to wake us up early in the morning with his sweet song, only nested a year or two and never returned.

The years have passed. It was about the latter part of the fifties when our neighbor became discouraged in the sale of his fruit. He ruthlessly cut out the orchard, leaving a few apple trees. Now we saw no bats. Three horses were turned in to the 'orchard' which was quickly growing up into weeds. There were cottontails, 'possums, the smell of the skunk and occasional 'coon tracks in the road. Two or three pairs of Bell's Vireo took up housekeeping on the Bluff bank and continued so until 1971. Indigo Buntings diminished in numbers. Cardinals and Rufous-sided Towhees were on the increase.

Badgers left the area when a service road was built for us. We saw no more 'coons but once in awhile we'd see a family of skunks. I know 'possums are still here because one was killed on our road in 1981. We had a variety of snakes, they being shy we seldom saw them, and skinks darted across our path as we came upon them. Where the bluff had been cut to make more room for a road (and incidentally soil for sandbags to prevent flooding on the Missouri and Nishnabotna bottoms) Bank Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows surveyed the area. It was 1959 when Rough-winged Swallows (first to come) started nesting in the cut bank. Then came the Bank Swallows in numbers, about fifty pairs that first season. I never saw them fight the rough-wings but the latter never stayed long after the Bank Swallows had excavated their nests. Next year we had about two hundred pairs of Bank Swallows. The greatest number occurred in 1962 when I counted 1500, more or less. People came for miles around to see them. One late summer afternoon, the sky was dark and the air heavy. All of a sudden hundreds of Bank Swallows hawked back and forth crosswise of our yard. Below them, I would say about six feet, dragonflies were doing the same. Needless to say we weren't troubled with mosquitoes that summer. It lasted an hour and a half.

One year I saw six pairs of Cliff Swallows with their mud nests off to one side of the Bank Swallow tenement. A couple of other years there were just one pair of these swallows. Now, all of a sudden the Bank Swallows had bad luck; boys using their excavations for target practice; more home building; also blacksnakes and bullsnakes sluggishly crawled down from the crest of the bank to the nestlings and

eggs. One young man shot such a snake, cut him open and found ten birdlings and innumerable eggs in its stomach. (IBL 35 :57) We had a sharp decrease in swallow numbers the following year, and in two or three years there were none. They returned in 1980 but nested in another place where the bluff had been blasted out just a little south of our home.

The horses were taken away from the 'bowl'. Now we'd hear the Field Sparrows. We still had a pair of Carolina Wrens but after the very cold winter of 1976-77 we haven't had even one visit of this bird. Gray Catbirds stayed on the edges of the area, but N. Cardinals and Blue Jays moved across the road south into a lightly wooded area. We would hear the nesting Wood Thrush one year and another. We still had the Rufous-sided Towhees but they, too, moved across the road. In this same woods the white-tailed deer were coming in, and still are in increasing numbers. We even have had a family of red fox one year, about 1979. Am. Robins, Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers still nested in the thickets. Bell's Vireo are long gone. We rarely see the harrier over the lowlands. We have more Red-tailed Hawks and Am. Kestrels in spring and fall. When we first moved here there were only fox squirrels. Now black squirrels are increasing as fast as the deer. Since 1966 each year a pair of Belted Kingfishers tried to 'nest' in the bank immediately south of us but the city bulldozers, getting soil, discouraged them. Now, the pair have found another bank safe from humans just northeast of our home. A pair of Wood Ducks tried nesting in an old large cottonwood on the south edge of our land. They didn't stay as children bothered them. Maybe it wasn't to their liking anyway. One year, 1981, they failed to return.

The summer of 1977 a Whip-poor-will called all summer long in another wooded area to the north of us across the road, close to the original Bank Swallows homes. These woods have been a home to Bobwhite off and on through the years.

Now the land immediately to our east has been purchased. The owner has bulldozed it greatly for dirt to be sold. So we have no birdlife (and I am sure, animal) from 1981 and as long as these activities continue, it will be sterile of wildlife. I was so unhappy when our neighbor bulldozed out most of his fruit trees but as the years passed I learned we didn't lose our wildlife. It just changed with the changing habitat.

## GENERAL NOTES

**A Northern Harrier Nest in Kossuth County** — On 25 May 1985, while searching for duck nests with a chain drag at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge in the SW ¼ of Section 23, Ramsey Township, we flushed a female Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) from a nest containing two eggs. The nest was on the ground in a stand of smooth brome grass (*Bromus inermis*) and scattered clovers (*Trifolium* sp.), and was located approximately 200 meters from water. On 4 June and 15 June the nest contained seven eggs (see photo). We observed the female returning to the nest site and found it destroyed. All of the eggs were missing and nearby diggings indicated that a Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis* or Badger (*Taxidea taxus*) was the probable predator. No evidence of hatching or earlier presence of young were found.

Dinsmore et. al. (1984) stated that although once a common nester in Iowa prairies, the Northern harrier is now one of Iowa's rarest nesting birds. They list several Iowa nesting records since the late 1950s but none for Kossuth County.





Northern Harrier nest  
Photo by J.P. Fleskes

#### Literature Cited

- Dinsmore, J.J., T.H. Kent, D. Koenig, P.C. Petersen, and D.M. Roosa. 1984. *Iowa Birds*. Iowa State University Press, Ames. 356 pp.  
Joseph P. Fleskes and Joseph Clark, Iowa Coop. Unit, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.

**Bald Eagle Summers at Lake Rathbun** — An adult Bald Eagle has spent a portion of the 1984 and 1985 summers roosting near Lake Rathbun. Mr. and Mrs. Rex Peterson of rural Plano, IA. noticed an adult Bald Eagle in a dead tree in his pasture. His farm is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the south fork at Lake Rathbun.

Each night as he was doing his milking he observed the eagle come to roost. He started keeping a record and it came almost nightly and was never observed with a mate or young. The last date of roosting for 1984 was August 4. Rex again was doing his chores on May 22, 1985 and noticed the eagle was back. It again came in most evenings and stayed until the tree blew down in a storm on July 28.

Many Rathbun Bird Club members were able to observe the eagle from the barn door some 300 feet away. Summer records, outside of northeast Iowa, are rare for Bald Eagles in Iowa. According to *Iowa Birds*, an immature Bald Eagle was sighted in Clinton Co. on June 21, 1982. An immature was also reported at Forney Lake on July 20, 1985. Although I don't have records for other states, this should be a noteworthy record for a Bald Eagle roosting in the midwestern area.

Dinsmore, J.J., T.H. Kent, D. Koenig, P.C. Peterson and D.M. Roosa, *IOWA BIRDS* (Ames, Iowa State University Press, 1984), p. 100

—Field Reports, summer 1985. *Iowa Bird Life* Vol. 55 No. 3 p. 90

TOM JOHNSON, P.O. Box 1054 Centerville, IA. 52544

## OBITUARY

Dorothy A. Brunner, 78, of Nora Springs died Friday, October 4, 1985, at a Nora Springs Care Center. Miss Brunner was born November 3, 1906 at Marble Rock. She taught school for over forty years, including five years on a Navajo Indian Reservation at Chinlee, Arizona. Miss Brunner came to Marshalltown in 1958, teaching 4th grade at Rogers School until her retirement in 1971.

She was vitally interested in wildlife conservation. She was a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for 37 years and served as a president in 1978-1979. In addition, she helped organize and was the first president of the North Iowa Nature Club. In earlier years she had served as president of the Central Iowa Ornithologists' of Marshalltown. She was a member of the Minnesota Ornithologist Union, the National Wildlife Federation and Lime Creek Nature Center.

Survivors include a brother and sister both of Nora Springs. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery at Marble Rock. HANK ZALETEL, 715 West St., Colo, Iowa 50056

# CONSTITUTION OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

[Approved by vote of the general membership at Marshalltown on 18 May 1985]

## ARTICLE I--PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (hereafter I.O.U.) shall be to encourage interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds and to unite all those persons who have this interest in common.

Section 2. The I.O.U. will collect and preserve knowledge on the occurrence of birds in Iowa, publish a journal appropriate to its purposes, conduct meetings of its members, and promote bird study in Iowa.

Section 3. The I.O.U. is organized for educational and scientific purposes.

## ARTICLE II--MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be open to any individual subscribing to the purposes of the I.O.U..

Section 2. All individual members shall have the right to vote, and shall be eligible to hold office and to serve on committees.

Section 3. Institutions such as libraries, schools, and organizations may subscribe to I.O.U. publications, but are not eligible for membership.

Section 4. Dues and subscription rates shall be proposed annually by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership.

Section 5. All memberships shall be on an individual basis and dues may be established as follows:

A. Regular--regular dues on calendar year basis.

B. Life--dues prepaid for life of member in one payment or installment payments as established by the Board.

C. Contributing--Any member contributing funds to the I.O.U. above the rate set for regular membership.

D. Honorary--member for life without dues.

Section 6. A regular member who is the spouse or child (under age 18) of another regular member may have a reduced rate of dues if publications are shared.

Section 7. Honorary membership may be conferred by 3/4 vote of members at the first annual meeting of year to persons who have made longstanding contributions to the I.O.U. or its objectives.

Section 8. Membership shall be on a calendar year basis. Dues are payable on or before January 1 of each calendar year.

Section 9. The Board of Directors, by affirmative vote of 2/3 of all the members of the Board, may suspend, expel, or reinstate a member for cause after an appropriate hearing.

Section 10. Any member may resign by giving written notice to the Treasurer, but such resignation shall not relieve the member of the obligation to pay any dues or other obligations theretofore accrued and unpaid.

## ARTICLE III-- THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The affairs of the I.O.U. shall be managed by its Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board shall consist of the four elected officers, and five elected directors.

Section 3. Directors shall serve staggered two-year terms with three directors to be elected at the same meeting as the President and Vice President, and two directors to be elected when the Secretary and Treasurer are elected. A retiring President shall be invited to be a nominee as a candidate for director at the time that three directors are elected. Directors shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. Terms begin at the end of the meeting at which election took place.

Section 4. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be not less than 2/3 of the members of the Board. Business may be conducted through correspondence when expedient, and the results of any votes or other actions shall be appended to the minutes of the preceding Board meeting.



Section 5. There shall be at least two Board meetings each calendar year. Special meetings of the Board may be called at the request of the President or any two Directors. Written notice of the date and agenda of any special meeting must be made to each board member at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Section 6. A director may be removed for incapacity or unexcused absences by an affirmative vote of 3/4 of the other members of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Any vacancy occurring in the Board may be filled until the next election by a majority vote of the remaining board members, though less than a quorum.

Section 8. Board meetings shall be open to any I.O.U. member. A portion of a meeting may be closed by 2/3 vote.

#### ARTICLE IV--OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the I.O.U. shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected for a term of two years with President and Vice President to be elected at one election and Secretary and Treasurer to be elected at the next election. No officer shall be elected to the same office for more than two consecutive terms. Terms begin at the end of the meeting at which election occurred.

Section 3. Any vacancy occurring in an office may be filled until the next election by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, except that the Vice President shall succeed the President.

Section 4. Any officer may be removed for incapacity or unexcused absences by an affirmative vote of 3/4 of the other members of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The President shall be the principal officer and leader of the I.O.U. and shall in general supervise and control the business and activities of the I.O.U.. The President shall preside at all meetings of the I.O.U. and its Board of Directors; vote only to break or make a tie; exercise general supervision over the interests and welfare of the I.O.U.; appoint with approval of the Board all committees and chairpersons except as otherwise specified; call all meetings of the I.O.U. and the Board of Directors; and perform such duties as are required by the Board of Directors, the membership, or by law or regulation.

Section 6. The Vice President shall act in the absence of the President, and accept at least one other responsibility as agreed upon by the President and the Vice President.

Section 7. The Secretary shall take and maintain current minutes of all meetings of the I.O.U. and the Board of Directors; provide minutes in a timely fashion to the I.O.U. and the Board as determined by the President; maintain the official documents such as the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution; maintain current and historical rosters of all officers, directors, committees and administrative personnel; maintain a chronological list of motions passed by the membership or the Board of Directors; be responsible for official correspondence of the I.O.U. and its Board; and perform other such normal secretarial duties as assigned by the President or the Board.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall receive, account for, and deposit all funds of the I.O.U. in a bank or other appropriate institution, as directed by the Board of Directors; make authorized disbursements by the issuance of checks; keep current an accurate membership directory; maintain an appropriate financial record which shall be subject to annual audit as directed by the Board; prepare and submit such financial statements or reports as required by laws or regulations and/or requested by the President, Board of Directors, or the membership; and perform other such duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE V--COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees shall be standing or ad hoc. Standing Committees shall include Membership, Records, Publications, and Historical/Library. Appointments to standing committee shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Ad hoc

committees may be created or dissolved by the President, and such committees shall dissolve at the end of the term of that President. The Board of Directors or the membership voting at a meeting may require the creation or dissolution of an ad hoc committee.

Section 2. Standing committees shall operate under by-laws approved by the Board of Directors and not inconsistent with this constitution. The by-laws for each standing committee shall include a mechanism for regular turnover of committee members. Each standing committee shall submit an annual prospective budget to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. A majority of a whole committee shall constitute a quorum. The actions of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the actions of the committee, unless otherwise prescribed by a committee's charge or its by-laws.

Section 4. Standing committees report to the Board of Directors. Ad hoc committees report to the President, or to the body (Board of Directors or membership) that required their creation.

#### ARTICLE VI-ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Section 1. Major administrative positions may be established by the Board of Directors subject to approval by the membership. A proposal for establishment of such a position should include a description of any compensation or other benefits to the person who would occupy the position and a statement as to whether the position will report to the Board of Directors or to a standing committee.

Section 2. Each administrative position shall have a job description, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Personnel shall be appointed to administrative positions in a manner specified by the Board of Directors. If a position reports to a standing committee, that committee shall make recommendations for filling the position.

Section 4. Appointment to other than temporary positions shall be formally reviewed at least every five years and a report submitted to the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Authority to create and appoint persons to minor administrative positions may be delegated by the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE VII--MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the I.O.U. shall be held once in each half of the calendar year. The schedule and program of general membership meetings shall be the responsibility of the President and Vice President with the assistance of the Board of Directors and a local committee. Each regular meeting shall include a business meeting. Notice of the time and place of the regular meetings shall be sent to each member at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Special business meetings may be called by the President, Board of Directors, or 20 members, providing that notice of the time, place, and agenda be sent to each member at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 3. The date and place of regular meetings shall be set by the Board of Directors at least 6 months in advance of the meeting, unless the date and/or place has been set by a vote of the members at a regular meeting.

Section 4. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be the active members present at any regular or special meeting, provided the number shall be not less than 15.

Section 5. Under special circumstances as determined by a vote of the Board of Directors, business may be carried out by a mail ballot sent to each member.

Section 6. Non-business meetings and other activities consistent with the objectives of the I.O.U. may be arranged or co-sponsored as needed by the President or Board of Directors.



**ARTICLE VIII-NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.** A nominating committee consisting of three members, past or outgoing officers or directors when feasible, shall be appointed by the president with approval of the Board of Directors at the first annual meeting of the year with one member designated as chair.

**Section 2.** The nominating committee shall nominate a slate of one or more candidates who are willing to serve, if elected, for each available elected position and shall distribute the printed slate to all members at least three weeks prior to meeting at which elections will be held.

**Section 3.** Elections shall be held during the initial session of the business meeting at the first regular meeting of the year.

**Section 4.** Each available elected position shall be voted on separately and there shall be no limitation on nominations from the floor prior to the vote. A majority vote of those voting is necessary for election.

**ARTICLE IX-FINANCES AND ASSETS**

**Section 1.** The I.O.U. shall not engage in deficit spending unless specifically approved by the membership.

**Section 2.** The financial records of the I.O.U. shall be audited yearly by two persons other than the Treasurer and appointed by the President, at least one of whom is a member of the I.O.U.. The examination should evaluate the accuracy and appropriateness of the records and should evaluate the banking and investment procedures of the I.O.U..

**Section 3.** The I.O.U. shall provide appropriate bonding for the Treasurer.

**Section 4.** All monies, funds, materials, and other property or assets belonging to and/or received by the I.O.U. shall be cared for and disposed of as prescribed by the Board of Directors unless otherwise specified within this constitution.

**Section 5.** Any compensation, direct or indirect, shall be established prior to any individual's appointment to an administrative position. Any conflict of interest, real or potential, in the appointment or election of an individual to an administrative position, office, or seat on the Board of Directors shall be recognized and dealt with appropriately by the Board of Directors prior to the appointment or election or during the term if the need arises.

**ARTICLE X-AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members attending a regularly scheduled meeting of the I.O.U., provided a quorum is present and the exact text of the proposed amendment has been sent to each member at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

**Section 2.** Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors, a designated constitution committee, or by 5 members. Validly proposed amendments will be distributed with a regular publication of the I.O.U..

**ARTICLE XI-DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1.** The I.O.U. may be dissolved at any time by a 2/3 vote of the members present at a special meeting of the I.O.U. called for that stated purpose.

**Section 2.** Upon dissolution of the I.O.U., the officers shall make provision for payment of all liabilities of the I.O.U. and shall dispose of all remaining assets of the I.O.U. for the purposes of the I.O.U., or to such organization(s) operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall qualify as an exempt organization under the 1954 section 501 (c) (3) Code of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Code), as the officers shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by the proper Court in an appropriate manner.

## FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1985

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## WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (by Jim Sandrock)

The four-month reporting period was generally cool, wet, and cloudy. August was one of the coolest of the twentieth century (38F at Independence on the 20th) with fewer than expected highs in the 90s. Precipitation was on average normal, but varied from less than 2 inches in the southeast to heavy rains in the northern counties (12 inches at Le Mars). September, too, was the wettest since 1976. Following the August pattern, the northern counties received heavy rainfall, while the southern parts of the state had near normal. Temperatures were typical of September, varying from 99F at Columbus Junction on the 7th to freezing conditions in the west, northwest, and central sections on the 26th. Measurable snow fell early in Iowa on the 28th to 30th at Storm Lake and Audubon. Des Moines reported the earliest snowfall on record on the 24th. The general cool, cloudy, wet patterns continued into October and November. The first general freeze--nearly state-wide--occurred on October 1. October rains were frequent until the last week of the month, while cloudiness was 20-30 percent greater than average. November was the coldest, wettest, and cloudiest since 1976. Precipitation in the form of rain, sleet, and snow exceeding the normal; temperatures for the month were almost 5 degrees below normal, ranging from -11F at Spencer on the 23rd to 65F at Des Moines on the 18th. November ended with blizzard conditions across the state.

The weather was unusual in 1985. The second warmest spring on record was followed by six months in which temperatures were below normal. Precipitation, too, was unusual with heavy amounts a general trend, varying widely in location and date.

## GENERAL TRENDS

The fall migration made up for the dull pattern of spring. The weekend of 21-22 September produced a spectacular migrant fallout. A front that was stalled across the state for several days appeared responsible. There were 500 dead birds at the Alleman TV towers including 5 species of vireos and 20 species of warblers (JJD). Martsching, who meticulously follows the spring and fall passerine migration in Ames, saw 20 species of warblers on the 22nd, exceeded his largest count in spring. Further east, Moore had 22 warbler species in Waterloo on the 22nd. Braley and others in Shenandoah made note of this wave in southwest Iowa. In general, more warblers were seen in western Iowa than usual throughout the season.

Waterfowl migration was also more interesting than usual. Hansen notes that a strong front on 28-30 September pushed some waterfowl into Iowa early (e.g., Tundra Swans, Bufflehead) and the bulk of Mallards moved through Iowa on Nov 7 ahead of the cold and snow that moved into the state on 8-10 November. Lakes and rivers were frozen by late November, earlier than usual.

Habitat for shorebirds was not as good as usual at the large reservoirs, but they were found in usual numbers at other locations.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental and casual species exceeded expectations. Accidentals included Red-throated Loon, Clark's Grebe, eider duck (Common or King), Black Scoter, Red Knot, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-billed Magpie, Sage Thrasher, and House Finch. Most of the species listed as casual for the state (many soon to be reclassified as regular) were seen this fall, including Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, Ibis species, Surf Scoter, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Burrowing Owl, Prairie Warbler, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Reports of Pacific Loon, Ferruginous Hawk,



and Prairie Falcon will be referred to the Records Committee. Perhaps the most spectacular event was the occurrence of all three scoter species and an eider species at one location on one day with the birds in both Iowa and Nebraska (JF, MPr, BPr). Anyone interested in state listing will have to go some to beat that. The Parasitic Jaeger and Sage Thrasher were also unusually cooperative and seen by many. A Barnacle Goose was reported as a possible escapee.

#### SPECIES DATA

Documented sightings are indicated by an "\*". In the species accounts, "record earliest" (or "latest") is used in reference to the date published in *Iowa Birds*; "early" (or "late") means earlier (or later) than the third earliest (or latest) date in *Iowa Birds*; and "first" (or "last") is relative to the current year--not a record date.

**RED-THROATED LOON:** 1 was found in the last open water at Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (\*SD, \*RKM). This is only the 2nd record in the last 10 years.

**PACIFIC LOON:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**COMMON LOON:** 1 was early at Saylorville Res. on 11 Oct (SD); impressive peaks included 74 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (SD), 71 at Coralville Res. on 10 Nov (TJS), and 79 at Keokuk Pool on 11 Nov (RCe); singles remained at L. Macbride to 29 Nov (JF) and Saylorville Res. to 30 Nov (SD). Many others were reported in groups of 1 to 19.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE:** 492 were seen at Saylorville Res. on 22 Sep (SD).

**HORNED GREBE:** 2 were at Saylorville Res. on 22 Sep (SD); peaks of 41 occurred there on 15 and 27 Oct (SD); and 1 was late at Big Creek L. on 29 Nov (SD); 1-4 were reported from other locations.

**RED-NECKED GREBE:** 2 ad. and 2 imm. were at Hallett's Quarry n. of Ames on 19 Oct (\*JJD, \*SD, \*PM, EM); several sightings at Big Creek L. and Saylorville Res. from 20 Oct to 7 Nov (\*\*SD, \*FLM, \*RKM) were thought to involve at least 3 individuals (SD).

**EARED GREBE:** none reported.

**WESTERN GREBE:** 2 were early at Spirit L. on 9 Oct (DCH); 2-14 were at Big Creek L. and Saylorville Res. from 12 Oct to 26 Oct with peak on latter date (FLM, RKM); 2 were at Silver L., Dickinson Co., on 23 Oct (DCH); 1 was at L. Manawa on 23 Oct (TB); and 1 was at DeSoto NWR on 16 Nov (JF, BPr, MPr).

**CLARK'S GREBE:** An individual of this newly recognized species was reported from Big Creek L. on 12 Oct (\*SD) and Saylorville Res. on 13 Oct (\*FLM) for the 2nd state record of this species.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Northern Iowa peaks were noted in late August and early September with 669 at Union Slough NWR on 23 Aug (SD), 900 in Dickinson Co. on 3 Sep (DCH), and 175 in Sioux Co. on 8 Sep (JV); central Iowa peaks were 600 at Bays Branch on 18 Sep (MPr, BPr) and 1,000 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Sep (SD); 200 had reached Mills Co. in southwest Iowa by 6 Sep (TB); singles were late at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (SD) and at DeSoto NWR on 24 Nov (PCP); eastern Iowa reports were of 49 at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TJS) and 1 at Rathbun Res. on 24 Oct (TNJ).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** At Saylorville Res. singles were present on the first and last days of the period with peak of 1,200 in early Oct (SD); a peak of 500 occurred at Rathbun Res. on 6 Oct (RLC); numbers were down (along with water levels) at Coralville Res. with peak of 143 on 14 Sep (TJS); 200 were at Spencer on 16 Oct (CT); and 500 were in Pottawattamie Co. on 20 Oct (TB).

**AMERICAN BITTERN:** 5 were reported--2 at Big Wall L. on 21 Sep (SD), singles at Rathbun Res. on 6, 23 Oct (MPr, TNJ), and 1 at Elm L. on 26 Oct (SD).

**LEAST BITTERN:** 1 at Sweet M. 11, 12 Aug (FLM, RKM); 1 at Hendrickson M. on 14 Aug (PM).

**GREAT BLUE HERON:** No large concentrations were reported.

**GREAT EGRET:** 16 on 16 Aug were the most ever for Harr in Dickinson Co.; a peak of 22 occurred at Fisher L., Polk Co., on 8 Sep (SD); 2-11 were found at eight other locations.

**SNOWY EGRET:** singles were described at four locations--Saylorville Res. on 1 Aug (SD), Guthrie Co. on 2 Aug (\*RKM), Otter Creek M. on 13 Aug (MPr), and Rathbun Res. on 29 Sep (\*TNJ).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** All reports were of immatures--2 at Otter Creek M. on 13 Aug (MPr), 16 at Willow Sl. on 16 Aug (BLW), 2 at Big Creek L. on 18-20 Aug (SD), and 5 at Forney L. on 7 Sep (RLC, TNJ).

**CATTLE EGRET:** Numbers were down this year--1 at Keokuk on 3 Aug (RCe, FLM), 3 at Willow Sl. on 29 Aug (BLW), 1 at Forney L. on 7 Sep (RLC, TNJ), 9 in Mills and Fremont counties on 8 Sep (BPa), and 5 in Appanoose Co. on 28 Sep (RLC).

**GREEN-BACKED HERON:** 1 was late at Ames on 23 Oct (PM).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** The peak was 31 at Forney L. on 9 Sep (TNJ, RLC); 3 were late at Big Wall and Elm lakes on 26 Oct (SD).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Singles (undescribed, presumably adults) were reported from Burlington on 5 Aug (JF) and Willow Sl. on 13 Aug (BLW, TB, BPa); a late immature was described at Saylorville Res. on 11 Oct (\*SD).

**IBIS SPECIES:** An all dark bird was at Union Grove S.P. on 29-30 Sep (\*MPr, \*SD, \*JF, EM).

**TUNDRA SWAN:** Usually all sightings of this species can be mentioned, but this year there were sightings across the entire northern half of the state including 14 counties. Early records were 9 in Lyon Co. on 23 Sep (Bill Fribley fide DCH) and 4 in Worth Co. on 6 Oct (Guy Zenner fide JLH); peaks were 675 at Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque Co., on 15 Nov (BS) and 500 at Lock and Dam 9, Allamakee Co., on 16 Nov (FLM et al.). Numbers at other localities ranged from 1 to 30.

**MUTE SWAN:** Singles were in Story Co. on 25 Sep (HZ) and on Marshall Co. farm ponds and gravel pits from 4 to 15 Oct (SD, m.ob.)

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** A summering bird was present at Willow Sl. to 19 Aug (BLW). Central Iowa peaks were 50 at Saylorville Res. on 26 Oct (MPr, DT) and 30 at Rathbun Res. on 2 Nov (TNJ, RLC). Late birds were 1 at Rathbun Res. on 22 Nov (TNJ, RLC) and 2 at Forney L. on 27 Nov (SD).

**SNOW GOOSE:** A summering bird was at Willow Sl. to 9 Sep (BLW) and the first arrival in central Iowa was at Bays Branch on 14 Sep (SD). On 17 Nov, 500,000 were in Mills and Fremont counties (TB, BPa).

**ROSS' GOOSE:** 1-2 were at DeSoto NWR on 15 Nov (THK, FLM) and 24 Nov (PCP).

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** An undocumented bird at Bays Branch on 3, 28 Nov was said by one observer to show no signs of captivity (RLC). The other observer (RKM) indicated that he would not be convinced that the bird was not a barn-yard escapee. Owing to lack of documentation of this bird, the question of the status of this species will not be put to the Records Committee at this time.

**WOOD DUCK:** 3 males were seen in Allamakee Co. on 24 Nov (FL).

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** 2 were at Princeton A. by 19 Aug (PCP).

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:** Small numbers were found across the state with the first at Willow Sl. on 29 Aug (BLW) and peak of 22 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (SD).

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** The last was in Boone Co. on 9 Nov (SD).

**CINNAMON TEAL:** A cinnamon-colored male was at Forney L. on 7 Sep (RLC), an unusual fall sighting for Iowa. A bird reported from Big M. on 6 May 1984 (*IBL* 54:43) was actually seen on 18 Apr (MPr).

**CANVASBACK:** Peaks counted [!] at the Keokuk Pool were 7,500 on 27 Oct and 17,000 on 14 Nov (RCe).

**GREATER SCAUP:** Singles were shot at Clear L. on 13 and 19 Oct (Lowell Washburn fide JLH); 1 was at Forney L. on 17 Nov (TB, WRS); 1 was at DeSoto NWR on 20 Nov (TB, BPa, BJR); and females were described at Saylorville Res. on 17 Nov (PM, SD) and Story Co. on 20 Nov (\*PM).

**LESSER SCAUP:** 9,200 were counted at Keokuk Pool on 27 Oct (RCe).



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**EIDER SPECIES:** 2 eiders in immature plumage were observed by many at DeSoto NWR from at least 10 to 24 Nov (\*TB, \*SD, \*JJD, \*RKM, \*WRS, \*THK, \*FLM, \*BPr-MPr-JF, \*PCP). The first observers thought these birds were Common Eiders, later observers thought they were King Eiders. The documentations and photographs will be referred to the Records Committee.

**OLDSQUAW:** 1 male in breeding plumage was early on 11 Oct at Waterloo (FLM); others were 1 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (\*SD), up to 4 at Clear L. on 14-16 Nov (JLH), and 1 at Rathbun Res. on 21 Nov (TNJ).

**BLACK SCOTER:** 1 male was at Spirit L. on 14 Nov (\*DCH) and a female was at DeSoto NWR on 16 Nov (\*MPr, BPr, JF).

**SURF SCOTER:** Single immatures or females were at Saylorville Res. on 24 Oct (\*SD) and at DeSoto NWR from 11 to 27 Nov (\*SD, \*FLM, \*MPr, \*WRS).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** Many more than usual were reported this fall. Early birds were 1 at Zirbel Sl. on 12 Oct (Lowell Washburn fide JLH) and 5 at Saylorville Res. on 17 Oct (THK). Others were 1-5 at DeSoto NWR from 9 to 20 Nov (BPa, TB, \*SD, \*RKM, \*FLM, \*BPr); 8 at Keokuk Pool on 11 Nov (\*RCe); 1 at Big Creek L. on 23 Nov (\*RKM, \*HZ); 1 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Nov (\*PM); and 5 (2 shot and examined) at Barringer Sl. on 30 Nov (JLH).

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** 10 were the first at Keokuk Pool on 9 Nov (RCe).

**BUFFLEHEAD:** 1 was early in Worth Co. on 6 Oct (Guy Zenner fide JLH).

**HOODED MERGANSER:** Peaks were 310 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Nov (SD), 220 in Pottawattamie Co. on 17 Nov (TB, WRS), and 85 at Rathbun Res. on 23 Nov (RLC).

**COMMON MERGANSER:** 1,200 were at Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (SD).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** 200 were the peak at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (SD).

**RUDDY DUCK:** 700 were counted, one-by-one, at Keokuk Pool on 23 Oct (RCe); 4 were still at West Okoboji on 25 Nov (THK, FLM).

**TURKEY VULTURE:** A peak of 61 were in Van Buren Co. on 22 Sep (RCe, JPSa) and 1 was late there on 23 Oct (R. Ball, W. Woolums fide JPSa).

**OSPREY:** Singles arrived early at Ames on 11 Aug (EM), in Louisa Co. on 16 Aug (PCP), and in Polk Co. on 18 Aug (JSi); a peak of 8 were at Saylorville Res. on 22 Sep (SD); singles were late in Harrison Co. on 7 Nov (DBi) and Johnson Co. on 8 Nov (JF). Reports were from 13 counties.

**BALD EAGLE:** 1 imm. was early along the Des Moines R. in Van Buren Co. on 16 Aug (JPSa); the peak was 36 (14 imm.) at DeSoto NWR on 24 Nov (PCP).

**NORTHERN HARRIER:** Several were seen in August. A peak of 16 at Big Wall L. on 20 Sep (SD) was an unusually large concentration.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** Migration peaks occurred at Grammar Grove on 11 and 22 Sep with 41 birds in four hours on the 11th and 27 birds on the 22nd (MPr); 23 were at Big Wall L. on the 23 Sep (SD) and 12 at Coralville Res. on 12 Oct (THK).

**COOPER'S HAWK:** About 50 birds, more than usual, were reported from 8 Sep to 26 Nov with peaks of 7 at Rathbun Res. on 5 Oct (SD) and 10 at Ames on 23 Oct (PM).

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** On 17 Nov, 1 imm. was at Big Creek L. (\*PM, SD), 2 were reported from Lyon Co. (Bill Fribley fide DCH), and 1 was seen in Waterloo (RKM); 1 imm. was at George Wyth S.P. on 21 Nov (\*FLM).

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:** Singles were seen at George Wyth S.P. on 15 Sep (FLM) and Sweet M. on 16 Sep and 29 Nov (FLM).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** 1 imm. was at Ames on 21 Aug (EM); otherwise, the first and last were at Saylorville Res. on 9 Sep and 12 Oct (SD); 2,000 were reported from Clinton Co. on 24 Sep (Lewis Blevins fide PCP) dwarfing the second high count of 500 in Johnson Co. on 14 Sep (RDe); a hawk count in Iowa City produced 200 on 22 Sep (RJH).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** 1 was late at Hartman Reserve in Cedar Falls on 3 Nov (FLM).

**RED-TAILED HAWK:** A peak of 71 occurred in Ames on 14 Sep (PM); 19 were in Marshall and adjacent counties on 21 Oct (MPr). Harlan's Hawks were reported from Dickinson Co. on 16 Oct (DCH) and Mills Co. on 26, 30 Oct (BLW).

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK:** 1 report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** The first was at Rathbun Res. on 5 Oct (SD) and the peak was 9 in Boone Co. on 9 Nov (SD).

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** Many more than usual were noted away from the usual Allamakee Co. location--1 ad. was early in Dickinson Co. on 17 Sep and seen at close range (LaVonne Foote fide DCH); immatures were in Cherokee Co. on 3, 5 Oct (\*MMB, \*DBi), Grundy Co. on 7 Oct (\*MPr), Ledges S.P. on 20 Oct (EM), Linn Co. on 5 Nov (\*KEG, REG), and DeSoto NWR on 10 Nov (\*RKM).

**MERLIN:** 2 were early in Sioux Co. on 6 Sep (JV, Del Vander Zee fide JV); 7 others were reported from 6 locations to 12 Oct, with 4 documented (\*RDe, \*FLM, \*RKM, \*MPr).

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** Singles were at Ames on 18 Sep (\*SD), Story Co. on 19 Sep (\*SD), Saylorville Res. on 21 Sep (\*RKM, \*FLM), and Rathbun Res. on 5 Oct (\*PM); 1 was late in Johnson Co. on 26 Oct (CJB).

**PRAIRIE FALCON:** Documentations were received for 1 of 2 reports and will be sent to the Records Committee.

**WILD TURKEY:** Several reports suggested extension of this species to new locations.

**NORTHERN BOBWHITE:** This species is still scarce in the northern half of the state; e.g., Fuller saw his first 2 in Johnson Co. for the year during the fall season.

**YELLOW RAIL:** 1 was found dead beneath the Alleman Towers on 21 Sep (SD); 1 was seen at Snake Creek M., Greene Co., on 30 Sep (\*RKM).

**KING RAIL:** 1 was seen at Sweet M. on 11 Aug (\*FLM).

**VIRGINIA RAIL:** 1 was at Union Slough NWR on 23 Aug (SD); 1 was at Sweet M. on 2 Sep (JF).

**COMMON MOORHEN:** Late nesting occurred at Sweet M. with 2 ad. with 7 downy young and 1 ad. with 3 downy young seen on 11 Aug (\*FLM) and 2 imm. remained there on 16 Sep (FLM). Other sightings were 1 at Otter Creek M. on 13 Aug (MPr) and 1 at Big Wall L. on 20 Sep (SD).

**AMERICAN COOT:** A count at the Keokuk Pool on 27 Oct yielded 31,650 (RCE); 7,500 were at Saylorville Res. on the same day (SD).

**SANDHILL CRANE:** 1 was described in Dickinson Co. on 19 Nov (Rory Martinson fide DCH).

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Early arrivals were at Hendrickson M. on 7 Aug (MPr), in Chickasaw Co. on 11 Aug (FLM), and at Willow Sl. on 13 Aug (BLW); 1-4 were seen at 8 other locations through 27 Oct.

**LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** 1 was in Iowa Co. on 19 Aug (CJB); 247 were at Bays Branch on 11 Oct (SD); 100 were at Big Creek L. on 20 Oct (THK); 1 was late at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (SD); 19 were at Willow Sl. on 23 Oct (BLW). These numbers are larger than usual.

**SEMPALMATED PLOVER:** 1 was late at Big Creek L. on 27 Oct (SD).

**KILLDEER:** Concentrations were 173 at Willow Sl. on 23 Oct (BLW) and 105 at Fisher L. on 31 Oct (SD).

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** 10 were at Hendrickson M. on 14 Aug (PM); 3 at Union Sl. on 23 Aug (SD); 3 at Otter Creek M. on 25 Aug (FLM); 3 at Forney L. on 8 Sep (BPp); 1 at Saylorville Res. on 12 Oct (SD); and 5 at Rathbun Res. on 25 Oct (TNJ).

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** Barb Wilson agitated a bird in Dickinson Co. on 1-2 Aug (She thought it acted like it was defending territory.). The peak was 71 at Union Slough NWR on 23 Aug (SD); the last was in Sioux Co. on 7 Nov (JV).

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** A peak of 730 were at Union Slough NWR on 23 Aug (SD); a late bird was at Big Creek L. on 3 Nov (SD).

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER:** The last was at Ames on 25 Sep (SD).



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**WILLET:** 4 were at Willow Sl. on 14 Aug (BLW); 1 at Hendrickson M. on 19 Aug (SD); and 2 were late at Bays Branch on 20 Aug (SD).

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** 1 was late at Rathbun Res. on 6 Oct (SD).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** The only report was 1 at Hendrickson M. on 7 Aug (MPr).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE:** 1 was early on 23 Aug at Union Slough NWR (SD); 1 was at Muscatine on 9 Sep (GDW); and 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 12 Sep (SD).

**RED KNOT:** 1 was at Fisher L. on 19, 20 Sep (\*SD, \*RKM, \*JF), providing the 3rd record in ten years (the others were in 1984).

**SANDERLING:** 1 to 21 were reported from 9 Sep to 13 Oct from 5 locations.

**SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER:** 2 reddish phase juveniles were noted at Coralville Res. on 3 Aug (\*THK); 244 were at Bays Branch on 20 Aug (SD); a late injured bird was described and heard at Saylorville Res. on 27 Oct (SD). The date for the 3 late birds reported from Story Co. in 1984 (*IBL* 54:113) was 3 Nov (PM).

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** 2 in alternate plumage (heavy triangular marks on underparts) were seen at Coralville Res. on 3 Aug (\*THK); a late report documented a juvenal-plumaged bird at Hendrickson M. on 4 Oct 1984 (\*PM).

**LEAST SANDPIPER:** 114 were noted at Bays Branch on 4 Sep (SD).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** 2 were flushed to show the white rump at Big Creek L. on 15 Oct (SD), one of very few fall sightings of this species.

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** 2-6 were at Coralville Res. from 18 Aug to 11 Sep (CJB, THK, TJS); 1-8 were at Bays Branch from 20 Aug to 12 Oct (SD); 1 was in Appanoose Co. on 6 Oct (RLC).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** Peaks were 200 in Iowa Co. on 19 Aug (CJB) and 600 at Bays Branch on 20 Aug (SD).

**DUNLIN:** A peak of 32 occurred at Bays Branch on 12 Oct (SD).

**STILT SANDPIPER:** 420 at Union Slough NWR on 23 Aug (SD) and 217 at Bays Branch on 8 Sep (SD) were the largest numbers reported; 17 were late at Bays Branch on 12 Oct (SD).

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** Numbers were down this fall with 2 in Chickasaw Co. on 11 Aug (FLM) and 1 at Otter Creek M. on 2 Sep (SD).

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Numbers peaked with 46 at Bays Branch on 20 Aug (SD) and the last (heard) there on 27 Aug (SD). Juveniles were noted as early as 3 Aug at Coralville Res. (\*THK).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** 1 in alternate plumage was noted by 19 Aug at Hendrickson M. (SD); a peak of 94 occurred at Bays Branch on 12 Oct (SD); 18 juveniles were noted at Big Creek M. on 13 Oct (THK); late birds identified by call were in Sioux Co. on 17 Oct (JV), Big Wall L. on 19 Oct (SD), Rathbun Res. on 24 Oct (TNJ), Elm L. on 26 Oct (SD), and Big Creek L. on 2 Nov (SD).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** 4 were late at Bays Branch on 18 Sep (MPr).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** 2 were early on 11 Aug in Chickasaw Co. (FLM); others were 23 at Union Slough NWR on 23 Aug (SD), 2 in Sioux Co. on 25 Aug (JV), 5 at Bays Branch on 14 Sep (SD) and 1 at Willow Sl. on 20 Sep (BLW).

**PARASITIC JAEGER:** An immature jaeger, thought to be a Parasitic by most observers, was at Saylorville Res. from 13 to 17 Oct (\*RKM, \*SD, \*FLM, \*CJB, \*BE, \*THK). The identification will be reviewed by the Records Committee.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** Very large numbers were noted in central Iowa, 2,500 at Rathbun Res. on 6 Oct (THK) and 20,000 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Oct (SD); the last were 6 at Little Wall L. on 12 Nov (SD).

**BONAPARTE'S GULL:** Peaks were 391 at Saylorville Res. on 15 Oct (SD) and 35 at Rathbun Res. on 2 Nov (RLC); the last were at Rathbun Res. on 23 Nov (RLC).

**RING-BILLED GULL:** Saylorville Res. had the largest numbers with 2,500 on 11 Oct (SD); numbers at the Coralville Res. were greatly decreased over previous years (THK); 450 were seen in Pottawattamie Co. on 17 Nov (TB, WRS).

**HERRING GULL:** 2 were early at Saylorville Res. on 12 Sep (SD); the peak there was 300 on 30 Nov (SD).

**GLAUCOUS GULL:** A 2nd year bird was reported from Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (\*SD).

**CASPIAN TERN:** 1 to 82 were reported from seven locations from 1 Aug to 8 Oct.

**COMMON TERN:** Several were reported with varying details--1 at Sweet M. on 11 Aug (FLM), 1 at Willow Sl. on 15 Aug (BLW), 1-3 at Saylorville from 25 Aug to 27 Oct (\*SD, MPr, BPr, THK), 1 at Davenport on 27 Aug (PCP, MLP), and 1-2 at Rathbun Res. on 30 Sep and 4, 13 Oct (RLC, TNJ). One listed for 2 Aug 1984 at Hendrickson M. (*IBL* 54:115) should have been two for 1 Aug (PM).

**FORSTER'S TERN:** Late birds were found at Rathbun Res. on 28 Oct (TNJ) and Saylorville Res. on 5 Nov (SD).

**BLACK TERN:** A peak of 130 was noted at Union Slough NWR on 23 Aug (SD); others were 1 to 35 from 7 other locations to 22 Sep.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** 1-2 were noted from five locations.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** 9 were seen in Lee Co. on 1 Sep (RCe); 1-2 were noted at 4 other locations. Undoubtedly more cuckoos than this were seen.

**COMMON BARN-OWL:** 2 were reported from Clarke Co. on 10 Sep (JF) and 23 Sep (SD).

**BURROWING OWL:** 4 were seen near the nest site in Cherokee Co. on 15 Sep (Bill Glawe fide JJD) and 2 were still there on 27 Sep (DBi).

**LONG-EARED OWL:** 1 in Iowa City on 19 Oct (THK); 1 at Big Creek L. by 28 Oct (RKM); 3 at Sweet M. on 29 Nov (FLM).

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** 1 at Big Creek L. on 10 Nov (SD); 2 in Story Co. on 13 Nov (SD).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** 1 was early at Rathbun Res. on 5 Oct (EM); others were found in Waterloo/Cedar Falls, Big Creek L., Allamakee Co., Burlington, and Grammar Grove S.P.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK:** Peaks were 165 in Mills Co. on 29 Aug (BLW); 50 at Iowa City on 30 Aug (RJH); 20 in Iowa City on 2 Oct (THK); and 50 at Ames on 3 Oct (PM). The last were 2 in Johnson Co. on 13 Oct (JF).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL:** 2 late birds were flushed from a windbreak in Pocahontas Co. on 20 Oct (JC).

**CHIMNEY SWIFT:** 5,000 at Ames on 15 Sep were personal high count (JJD). Late birds were noted in Lee Co. on 14 Oct (RCe), in Ames on 17 Oct (SD), and in Johnson Co. on 18 Oct (JF).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:** Singles were late in Sioux Co. on 18 Oct (JV) and in Iowa City on 23 Oct (Janet Hollis fide RJH).

**PILEATED WOODPECKER:** Extralimital sightings were at Marshalltown on 8 Aug (Betty Savage fide BPr), Tama Co. on 13 Aug (MPr), and Grammar Grove S.P. on 22 Sep (MPr, BPr).

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** 1 was early at Silver L., Dickinson Co., on 2 Aug (BLW); the peak of 8 was at Saylorville Res. on 24 Aug (SD, EM); 1 was late in Ames on 26 Sep (SD).

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:** 1 was still singing on 19 Sep in Lee Co. (RCe).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** Details were provided for 5 sightings between 24 Aug and 22 Sep--2 at Ames(SD, PM), Iowa City (a non-yellow bird with a pur-wee song, TJS), Lee Co. (\*RCe), and Davenport (PCP). Two were found dead at Alleman towers on 21 Sep (SD).

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** Singing birds were noted at Ames on 20 Aug (PM); at Saylorville on 21 Aug (SD); and in Lee Co. on 8 Sep (RCe).

**ALDER FLYCATCHER:** 1 was calling at Ames on 24 Aug (SD).

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** 5 were at Big Wall L. on 2 Aug (SD).

**EASTERN PHOEBE:** 3 were the last at Ames on 22 Oct (PM).

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER:** Late birds were 4 at George Wyth S.P. on 22 Sep (FLM) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Sep (SD).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** A record late bird was seen at close range for one-half hour at Sunken Grove on 20 Oct (JC).

**EASTERN KINGBIRD:** 30 were migrating in Mills Co. on 5 Sep (BLW).

**HORNED LARK:** 1445 were counted (by an accountant--FLM) over 9 hours from Fort Dodge to Spirit Lake on 24 Nov and 1520 were counted in Woodbury, Harrison, and Monona counties on 26 Nov (THK, FLM).



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**PURPLE MARTIN:** Speaking of careful counting, Cecil claims 9,000 martins in Lee Co. on 8 Aug were an increase over last year's count. In Appanoose Co., the last were 15 on 3 Oct (TNJ).

**TREE SWALLOW:** Many counters were out looking for this species and found 200 at Coralville Res. on 18 Aug (CJB) [Was our President trying to set a record low count for this location?]; 3,500 at Big Creek L. on 5 Sep (SD) [Steve counted more birds in Iowa this fall than anyone ever has before.]; 8,000 at DeSoto NWR on 28 Sep (EM) [Shouldn't we give half of these to Nebraska?]; 200 at Rathbun Res. on 3 Oct (TNJ) [Trying not to out count our President?]. Late birds were 5 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Nov (SD).

**NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:** Late birds were 1 at Waterloo on 24 Sep (SD), 10 at DeSoto NWR on 28 Sep (EM), and 3 at Keokuk on 11 Oct (RCe).

**BANK SWALLOW:** 400 were at Hendrickson M. on 1 Aug (HZ).

**CLIFF SWALLOW:** 5,000 were at Sweet M. on 11 Aug (FLM) and 1,000 were at Big Creek L. on 28 Aug (SD); 2 were late at Rathbun Res. on 5 Oct (SD).

**BARN SWALLOW:** 5,000 at Sweet M. on 11 Aug (FLM) is an unusual concentration for this species; 1 was late at Saylorville Res. on 31 Oct (SD).

**BLUE JAY:** 85 were migrating in Louisa Co. on 7 Oct (RCe).

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE:** 1 was seen along the Big Sioux R. west of Larchwood in Lyon Co. (\*DCH), the 1st record in over ten years.

**AMERICAN CROW:** Keokuk is trying to take the crow capital of Iowa away from Ames--5,000 were at the riverfront roost by 27 Oct and they had doubled their numbers by 23 Nov (RCe).

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** A Sioux Co. bird seen on 10 Aug was thought to have summered (JV). Otherwise, there was an early fall migration of this species, including 2 August records--1 in Pocahontas Co. on 20 Aug (JC) and 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 27 Aug (LG); 5 September records were noted.

**BROWN CREEPER:** Early migrants were in Lee Co. on 20 Aug (RCe) and Ames on 24 Sep (EM).

**CAROLINA WREN:** 1-3 were in Lee Co. from 2 Aug to 22 Oct (RCe); 1 was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 20 Oct (JPSa).

**WINTER WREN:** Reports were of 1-4 birds from 21 Sep to 25 Oct.

**SEDGE WREN:** A peak of 15 was noted at Rathbun Res. on 6 Oct (RLC).

**MARSH WREN:** 10 were at Big Wall L. on 23 Sep (SD); the last was at Saylorville Res. on 24 Oct (SD).

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:** The first were in Ames on 25 Sep (EM) and the peak of 22 was there on 23 Oct (PM).

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** In Ames, the first was 1 on 28 Aug, the peak of 26 occurred on 25 Sep, and the last was 1 on 27 Oct (PM).

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** Mid-September birds were seen at Ledges S.P., Ames, and Lee Co.; 1 was late at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 24 Sep (RCe).

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD:** Flocks of 10 to 20 were common with a peak of 75 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Oct (SD).

**VEERY:** Singles were noted at Ledges S.P. on 1 Sep (SD) and Ames on 1, 11 Sep (PM); several were in Sioux Co. on 3 Sep (JV).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** Details were given for an early bird at Ames on 17 Aug (PM).

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** The first was at George Wyth S.P. on 25 Aug (FLM); the peak at Ames was 15 on 22 Sep (PM). A record late bird at Laurens from 11 to 14 Nov was banded; the bird had a large buffy eyering and non-rusty tail (\*JC, RVH).

**WOOD THRUSH:** 1 was at Ames on 22 Sep (PM).

**VARIED THRUSH:** 1 was seen briefly in Cherokee on a record early date of 22 Oct (\*JEH).

**GRAY CATBIRD:** Peaks were on 22 Sep--75 in Iowa City (THK) and 24 in Ames (PM); the last 2 were at Saylorville Res. on 20 Oct (SD).

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:** 2 were in Appanoose Co. on 20 Sep (TNJ) and 1 in Lee Co. on 14 Oct (RCe).

**SAGE THRASHER:** Iowa's 3rd Sage Thrasher was discovered by Tom Stone, Jr. in a park along the Cedar River in Waterloo on 23 Sep and was seen by many (\*FLM, \*THK, \*TJS, \*JF, \*SD, \*CJB, \*BPr, \*MPr, \*RKM) until 13 Oct.

**BROWN THRASHER:** 25 were in Iowa City on 22 Sep (THK).

**WATER PIPIT:** 1 was early at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TJS); the peak was 160 at Saylorville Res. on 27 Oct (SD); late birds were 2 at Clear L. on 15 Nov (JLH) and 12 at Saylorville Res. on 17 Nov (PM, SD).

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** none reported.

**NORTHERN SHRIKE:** 17 birds were reported, most with details, from eight counties, all in the northern half of the state except Polk, which is just below center.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** 3 reports were from Clarke and Appanoose counties in south central Iowa.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** 1 on 13 Aug in Louisa Co. (PCP); 1 on 12 Sep at Davenport (Brian Blevins fide PCP); and 1 on 22 Sep in Lee Co. (RCe).

**BELL'S VIREO:** The last was 1 at Saylorville Res. on 1 Sep (SD).

**SOLITARY VIREO:** 1 was early on 22 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe); peaks of 10 were at Ames on 11, 22, 28 Aug (PM); the last was on 14 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe).

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:** 4 were reported with the last on 22 Oct in Johnson Co. (THK).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** 1 was early on 19 Aug in Ames (PM); peaks were 4 on 14 Sep in Lee Co. (RCe), and 3 on 22 Sep in Ames (PM); the last were 3 on 29 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**RED-EYED VIREO:** Peaks of 20 on 12 Sep in Iowa City (TJS) and 22 on 22 Sep in Ames (PM) are not unusual for this common fall migrant. The last was in Ames on 28 Sep (SD, PM).

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** 1 on 8 Sep in Lee Co. (RCe) was the last.

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** Early singles on 11 Aug at Sweet M. (FLM), 16 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe), and 19 Aug in Ames (PM); late were 1 on 21 Sep in Iowa City (JF, RCe), 4 at George Wyth S.P. on 22 Sep (FLM), and 1 in Ames on 25 Sep (SD).

**TENNESSEE WARBLER:** They were abundant this fall with 20 on 27 Aug in Polk Co. (SD); in Lee Co. peaks were 24 on 27 Aug and 60 on 6 Sep (RCe). A record late bird was at Springbrook S.P. on 3 Nov (\*RKM).

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** 2 on 25 Aug at George Wyth S.P. (FLM) were record early arrivals; 1 on 4 Sep in Ames (PM) was also early; a peak of 13 occurred on 20 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe); the last was on 23 Oct in Ames (PM).

**NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Widely reported with first on 21 Aug at Ledges S.P. (SD); peaks of 20 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Sep (SD) and 47 in Ames on 21 Sep (PM); the last was in Pocahontas Co. on 24 Oct (JC).

**NORTHERN PARULA:** The first (1 on 25 Aug), peak (3 on 22 Sep), and last (1 on 25 Sep) were all reported from Ames (PM). Singles in Cherokee Co. on 22 Sep (DBi) and Sioux Co. on 23 Sep (Tina Van Dyke fide JV) were noteworthy, as this species is less common in western Iowa.

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** The first was on 20 Aug in Pocahontas Co. (JC). This species was a dime a dozen this fall as peaks of 12 birds each were in Ames on 4 Sep (PM), Lee Co. on 14 Sep (RCe), and Sioux Co. on 21 Sep (JV).

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** Peaks were 23 at the Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TJS) and 8 at Ames on 22 Sep (PM); the last was on 1 Oct at Big Creek L. (SD).

**CAPE MAY WARBLER:** 1 on 25 Aug in Ames (PM) and 2 in Dallas Co. on 27 Aug (RKM) were early; more than usual were seen this fall with 2 in Davenport on 2 Sep (PCP, MLP), 1 in Cedar Rapids on 13 Sep (photo submitted by Ken Thimmesch), and, on 22 Sep, 1-3 in Johnson (THK), Story (PM), and Dallas (RKM) counties.

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** A female was early on 24 Aug in Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City and a male was there on 12 Sep (TJS). Another male and female were at George Wyth S.P. on 22 Sep (FLM); yet another female was in Iowa Co. on 26 Sep (CJB).



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- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:** The first was on 15 Sep in Ames (PM); peaks were 100 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Sep (SD), 50 in Sioux Co. on 11 Oct (Gordon Brand fide JV), and 125 in Lee Co. on 14 Oct (RCe).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** The peak of 10 on 8 Sep were in Lee Co. (RCe).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** 1-4 birds were seen at 4 locations from 16 Aug (MLP fide PCP) to 22 Sep (PM).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** Two reports of this very rare fall migrant--1 in Amana Woods on 29 Aug (CJB) and 1 at George Wyth S.P. on 22 Sep (FLM).
- PINE WARBLER:** Six documented reports of single birds--24 Aug in Ames (\*PM), 31 Aug in Marshall Co. (\*MPR, \*BPR), 4 Sep in Story Co. (\*SD), 6 Sep in Davenport (\*PCP), 15 Sep at Sweet M. (\*FLM), and 23 Sep at Big Creek L. (\*RKM). Another was in Johnson Co. on 6 Sep (JF).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** An adult male in Lee Co. on 27 Aug (\*RCe) was thought to be a different bird than one that summered in same area.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** A total of 81 was seen in Ames from 24 Aug to 2 Oct with peak of 13 on 4 Sep (PM). Other peaks were 8 at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TJS) and 6 in Lee Co. on 24 Sep (RCe). The last was on 13 Oct in Johnson Co. (JF).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** The first were 2 on 15 Aug in Ames (PM); the peak was 10 on 27 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe); the last were 2 on 25 Sep in Ames (PM).
- AMERICAN REDSTART:** A typical fall migration was nicely shown in Ames with the first on 17 Aug, peak of 11 on 22 Sep, and the last on 25 Sep (PM).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Probable nesting birds in Lee Co. (see *IBL* 55:96-98) were still present with 2 on 28 Aug and 1 on 10 Sep (RCe).
- OVENBIRD:** On a big warbler migration day (22 Sep) 50 were seen in Ames in flocks of 3-15 birds (PM); the last were 2 there on 25 Sep (PM).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** The first was on 15 Aug at Hendrickson M. (MPR); the peak was 4 in Ames on 4 Sep (PM); the last was in Ames on 26 Sep (SD).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** 2 were still in Ledges S.P. on 21 Aug (SD).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER:** 1 was late on 2 Sep in Lee Co. (RCe).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** 7 single birds were reported from 25 Aug to 22 Sep in central and eastern Iowa. No details were given for several very late birds in Pocahontas Co. on 24 Oct (JC).
- MOURNING WARBLER:** 1 was early on 11 Aug at Sweet M. (FLM); the last was on 22 Sep in Ames (PM).
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:** Late birds were in Story Co. 10 Oct (SD) and at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 20 Oct (RCe, JPSa). One reported from Ames on 14 Oct 1984 (*IBL* 54:120) should have been 14 Sep (PM).
- HOODED WARBLER:** 1 female was reported without details on 11 Aug at Sweet M. (FLM).
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** 1 was early on 15 Aug in Ames (PM); a peak of 8 occurred on 24 Aug at Ames (PM); the last was on 11 Oct in Davenport (PCP).
- CANADA WARBLER:** 1 was early on 12 Aug in Marshall Co. (MPR); a total of 57 were seen this fall in Ames with peak of 7 on 24 Aug (PM); other peaks were 8 in Ames on 7 Sep (SD) and 10 in Lee Co. on 8 Sep (RCe, JPSa); the last was on 28 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** 1 on 20 Sep in Shenandoah (JMB).
- SCARLET TANAGER:** 4 were in Sioux Co. on 22 Sep (JV).
- NORTHERN CARDINAL:** The first pair regularly seen by local birders was present after 15 Oct in Lyon Co. (DCH).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** A peak of 25 was seen in Ames on 22 Sep (EM); a late female was at Saylorville Res. on 20 Oct (JSi, SD).
- BLUE GROSBEAK:** 5 birds including 2 young banded in nest were found on 2 Aug in Cherokee Co. (DBi); the last were 2 on 15 Aug in Lyon Co. (DCH).
- INDIGO BUNTING:** The last reports were 1 imm. male on 6 Oct at Rathbun Res. (THK) and 3 birds in Ames on 13 Oct (EM).
- AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:** The first was 1 on 18 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SD).

- CHIPPING SPARROW:** The last was 1 on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- VESPER SPARROW:** The peak was 64 on 19 Aug at Hendrickson M. (SD); 1 was late on 31 Oct at Big Creek L. (SD).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW:** 35 in Hamilton Co. on 10 Oct (SD) was the peak; late birds were 2 on 3 Nov in Polk Co. (SD), 1 on 5 Nov in Story Co. (PM), and 1 on 23 Nov at Rathbun Res. (TNJ).
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** The first was on 18 Sep at Big Wall L. (SD). A large group was seen by many at the fall IOU convention at Rathbun Res. on 6 Oct with the peak count of 35 (RLC); 7 were still present on 20 Oct (RLC). The last was 1 on 26 Oct at Elm L., Wright Co. (SD).
- SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** 2 were documented at Snake Creek M., Greene Co., on 30 Sep (\*RKM).
- SONG SPARROW:** The peak number reported was 34 on 3 Nov in Lee Co. (RCe).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** 18 were counted at Rathbun Res. on 6 Oct (SD).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** This species peaked in mid-October with 100 in Polk Co. on 12 Oct (SD) and 30 in Buena Vista Co. on 15 Oct (JC).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** 30 were found in Buena Vista Co. on 15 Oct (JC).
- HARRIS' SPARROW:** Peaks were 20 on 15 Oct in Buena Vista Co. (JC) and 75 on 3 Nov at Big Creek L. (SD).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO:** 2 were early on 21 Sep at Big Wall L. (SD).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** There were a number of large flocks reported. On 26 Oct in Wright Co. an amazing 10,000 were seen (SD); 150 were in Johnson Co. on 7 Nov (TJS); 2,400 were in Story Co. on 23 Nov (SD); 1,090 were counted in 3 west-central counties on 26 Nov (THK, FLM); and approximately 1,000 in Story Co. on 29 Nov (SD).
- SNOW BUNTING:** 2 were early on 28 Oct at Rathbun Res. (TNJ); the peak of 164 in 7 northwestern counties on 24 Nov (THK, FLM) exemplifies the many seen across the state in late November.
- BOBOLINK:** The last reported was 1 found dead at the Alleman towers in Polk Co. on 21 Sep (SD).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** 300 were at Big Wall L. on 23 Aug; the last was seen there on 18 Sep (SD).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** Reported from 3 northwest counties after 2 Nov as well as "many" seen at Coralville Res. on 22 Nov (CT).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** 3 were reported without details in Appanoose Co. on 27 Oct (RLC). Details were given for a male bird in Palo Alto Co. on 24 Nov (THK, FLM).
- ORCHARD ORIOLE:** 1 was late at Saylorville Res. on 1 Sep (SD).
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** This species also lingered with late records of 1 on 21 Sep in Ames (PM) and 1 on 24 Sep in Lee Co. (RCe).
- PURPLE FINCH:** There were several early records this year--7 on 25 Aug in Marshalltown (John King fide BPr); 1 female on 27 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (LG); and 1 male on 28 Aug in Lee Co. (\*RCe). The peak number for the period was 52 on 20 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe).
- HOUSE FINCH:** A male bird put in a brief appearance in Brookside P. in Ames on 12 Oct (\*PM).
- RED CROSSBILL:** The only report was 1 female on 29 Nov in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines (SD).
- WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** Seen only in Davenport with 1 on 30 Oct (George Holmes fide PCP).
- COMMON REDPOLL:** 1 on 30 Oct at Saylorville Res. (MPr, BPr); 1 on 30 Oct in Marshalltown (Betty Savage fide BPr); and 6 on 10 Nov in Waterloo (FLM).
- PINE SISKIN:** A bird seen on 20 Aug in Ames (EM) may have summered. The first migrants showed up on 13 Oct in Tama (NAK); a peak of 12 were in Mills Co. 18-25 Oct (BLW).



## FIELD REPORTS

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**EVENING GROSBEAK:** A male on 21 Sep and a female on 22 Sep in Shenandoah (JMB) were the harbingers of a major fall invasion of this species. After 14 Oct, birds were reported from 12 counties across Iowa including peaks of 20 on 12 Nov in Lyon Co. (Dolly Zangger fide DCH) and 42 on 23 Nov at Ledges S.P. (EM). Most appeared in Nov and were still present at the end of the month.

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### OTHER OBSERVERS

Cathryn A. Baldner; Helen Carlson; Arthur Check; Phyllis Harris; Mary Lou Petersen; and B. J. Rose.

### COMMENTS

We would like to thank those contributors that sent all or parts of their reports early so that we could spread out the job of entering the data.

The various Field Reports editors will be reviewing the content and style of the Field Reports section of *Iowa Bird Life*. Your suggestions for improving this section of the journal will be welcomed and may be passed on to any of the editors or sent to T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240.

Winter field reports covering the months of December, January, and February should be sent to W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653 by March 1.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Wintering Eagles on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and their tributaries, 1984 & 1985** — Based mostly on National Wildlife Federation January eagle counts, this climaxes my 35 year river study of the eagles. From 1961 to 1978, my study was the complete Mississippi River. From that time to the present, I have done the same for the NWF.

The 17 states concerned were contacted. Actual figures and estimated ones came from them. Most of the data supplied me was in counties of the states. When a river runs through a county, I used the complete count. Admittedly, some errors might be made. The major errors, if any, would come from states with a common border on the two major rivers. Hopefully, the project will be carried on. The states would supply the river data after the counts. This would be more accurate.

The tables give the Bald Eagle county by states.

1984 WINTER N. W. F.  
BALD EAGLE COUNTS

STATE	ADULT	IMM.	N/A	TOTAL
Louisiana	0	2		2
Mississippi	0	0	62	62
Arkansas	126	141	6	273
Tennessee	56	38		94
Kentucky	142	79	4	225
Missouri	240	124		364
Illinois 1	1,095	384	9	1,488
Iowa	5	1		6
Indiana	5	1		6
Wisconsin	83	45		128
Missesota	5	1	1	7
Kansas	49	37		86
Nebraska	296	86	6	388
South Dakota 2	107	33		140
North Dakota 4	24	5		29
Montana 3	242	52		295
Wyoming	196	92		288
Totals	2,671	1,123	88	3,882
Percentage	70%	30%		

1 - Illinois border includes Iowa and Missouri

2 - 70% eagles on Missouri River

3 - 70% Missouri drainage. NWF counts modified

4 - Complete total used, all water area flows into Missouri River except one small river, usually frozen, that flows to Hudson Bay.

1985 WINTER N. W. F.  
BALD EAGLE COUNTS

STATE	ADULT	IMM.	N/A	TOTAL
Louisiana	5	0		5
Mississippi	24	15	1	40
Arkansas	111	83	5	199
Tennessee	116	80		196
Kentucky 1	73	40		113
Missouri	158	96		254
Illinois	970	393	11	1,374
Iowa	35	8		43
Indiana 1	9	5		14
Wisconsin	82	34	5	121
Minnesota	19	11		30
Kansas	26	7		33
Nebraska	475	238	33	746
South Dakota	19	11		30
North Dakota 4	24	2		26
Montana 2	0	0	320	320
Wyoming 3				317
Totals	2,146	1,279	375	3,800
Percentage	63%	37%		

1 - Includes Ohio River (8-3-T-11)

2 - Average 70% Missouri River drainage

3 - Average 70% Missouri River - no winter count (6 years average)

4 - Complete state figures



This river study was done in 17 states. When eagles in these states were added, we find these figures: 1984 — totals were 6,173 Bald Eagles. In 1985 the total was 5,952. The national average from 1980 through 1982 was 13,580 eagles. These three years were used because all states took part in the winter count. Now some states have a spring count only. In 1984, the river states accounted for 45 percent of the total count. In 1985, the percentage was 44 percent.

#### **GOLDEN EAGLES**

In 1984, 43 Golden Eagles were found on the Mississippi River; 30 percent immatures. In 1985, 29 Golden Eagles were found; 19 percent immatures. Large numbers of Golden Eagles were found on the Missouri River, but not enough results were submitted. Montana and Wyoming sent no figures. These states account for many Golden Eagles. ELTON FAWKS, 3227 9th Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**Bird Behavior** — Robert Burton — Alfred A. Knopf, NY — 224 p., 580 color ph. — 1985 — \$18.95.

Many books have been written about bird behavior, several of them overviews. This addition to the literature stands out because of the large number of excellent photographs illustrating the text. The author divides his subject into behavior related to light, senses, feeding, way of life, communication, social life, nesting and migration. The examples are chosen from around the world. Although it is a very general book it is a good combination of text and photography conveying a great deal of information. ed.

**Birds of the Great Basin: A Natural History** — Fred A. Ryser — Univ. of Nevada Press, Reno — 642 p., 62 color ph., 35 b. & w. illus. — 1985 — \$27.50, \$15.00 in paper.

This regional book does not use artificial state borders to limit its scope. It also deviates from the usual checklist order and groups birds entirely by their lifestyle. Each species account covers the general life history with emphasis on the activities within the region. No specific dates are given, even for accidentals. The area covered includes almost all of Nevada plus adjacent portions of the bordering states. An eight page appendix provides suggestions for birding including some of the best sites. The book would be useful for background information for anyone planning a birding trip to this area. ed.

**The Wildlife Gardener** — John V. Dennis — Alfred A. Knopf, NY — 293 p., 65 b. & w. illus — 1985 — \$17.95.

As more and more of our natural habitat is eliminated, it is becoming clear that wildlife is utilizing urban and suburban yards in increasing numbers. The author presents his overall philosophy on how to establish a diverse habitat around a home. Specific chapters cover water, food plants and nesting sites for birds, attracting hummingbirds, entertaining mammals, attracting bees, moths, and butterflies, welcoming earthworms, insects, amphibians and reptiles. An appendix lists small trees, shrubs, vines and flowers and their uses as wildlife food. A lengthy bibliography presents other references for the more serious person. ed.

**Audubon Society Nature Guide — Grasslands** — Lauren Brown — Alfred A. Knopf, NY — 60 p., 623 color pls. — 1985 — stiff boards, \$14.95.

Instead of the conventional approach of a field guide for each discipline this guide, one of a series of seven, covers all of the flora and fauna for an ecological biome. It is an interesting approach and a knowledgeable group of "assistant" authors have contributed. Each species covered is treated much like they are in bird, flower and other standard guides using photographs for identification. Two obvious errors were noted in the bird section. The Bobwhite is a Montezuma Quail

and a Red-winged Blackbird labeled female is a male. It makes me wonder what errors are to be found in the other sections. Other books in the series are eastern and western forests, Atlantic — Gulf and Pacific Coasts, wetlands, and deserts. ed.

**The Western Bird Watcher — An Introduction to Birding in the American West** — Kevin J. Zimmer — Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ — 278 p., many b. & w. photos — 1985 — paperback — \$10.95.

Kevin Zimmer, who contributed a section to **Birding Areas of Iowa**, is a very active birder who has birded extensively in the west. The three most informative sections of the book for most birders will be finding the western specialties and the two identification sections. The longer section titled "Difficult Identifications Beyond the Field Guides" is especially valuable. Many of the problems discussed in this section should be quite helpful to Iowa birders, especially gulls, terns, hawks and meadowlarks. Despite the subtitle "introduction", the experienced birder will find much useful information in the last section mentioned above. It would be a good supplementary book for a trip to the southwest or especially California. ed.

**Catesby's Birds of Colonial America** — Alan Feducia, ed. — University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill — 176 p., many b. & w. illus. — 1985 — \$29.95.

Although Audubon would be the guess of most bird watchers as the founder of bird art in America, it was in fact Catesby. Preceding Audubon by a century, he illustrated many of the birds as well as other animals. His 109 bird plates are all included in this book as well as an edited version of his text. The editor discusses the perception of each species during the colonial period, comments on its habits, and compares Catesby's observations with those of other early naturalists. Anyone with an interest in historical ornithology will find it a very interesting work. ed.

**Loon Magic** — Tom Klein — Paper Birch Press, Inc., Ashland, WI — 166 p., 100 color ph. — 1985 — \$40.00.

This beautiful coffee table type book presents the life history of one of our most interesting and intriguing birds. Although only a migrant in Iowa, the Common Loon breeds across northern Minnesota and Wisconsin where many Iowans vacation. The call of the Common Loon is one that is often recognized instantly the first time it is heard. The book is primarily on the Common Loon, but covers the other three species in some detail. The photographs are exceptional. It is recommended to loon enthusiasts of all degrees of interest. ed.

**Bird Watching With Ben** — Ben Gelman — Southern Illinois Univ. press, Carbondale — 180 p. — 1985 — \$16.95, paperbound, \$9.95.

This book is a collection of newspaper columns written about the author's various birding experiences. Some deal with one species, some with an entire field trip, and others are about birders he knows. It makes for interesting casual reading, but is not of reference value. An annotated checklist for southern Illinois completes the book. ed.

**Wings on the Southwind** — Thase Daniel — Oxmoore House, Birmingham, AL — 176 p., 140 color photos — 1984 — \$29.95.

This coffee table type book presents a nice sample of Mrs. Daniels exceptional photography. All those with an eye for nature will enjoy this presentation of the work of a master photographer whose work has appeared in **National Geographic** and **National Wildlife** magazines. The subjects all relate to the wetlands of the southeastern U.S. We catch glimpses into this harsh and beautiful habitat through the photographer's lens. The layout and text nicely supplement the photography. ed.



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Index prepared by W. Ross Silcock

With this issue Peter C. Petersen retires as editor of *Iowa Bird Life* after twenty-five years. The timely submission of material and general cooperation of the membership was greatly appreciated.

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